

**REMARKS**

2 Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of subject  
3 application.

4 Claims 1-12 and 17-44 are canceled without prejudice.

5 Claims 13-16 and 45-46 are pending.

6 Applicant thanks the Examiner for the detailed analysis presented in this  
7 Office Action.

8

9 **Allowed Claims**

10 Claims 13-16 and 45-46 are allowed. (*Action*, page 14). Applicant thanks  
11 the Examiner for allowing these claims. These claims remain unchanged an in  
12 condition for allowance.

13

14 **Claim Rejections**

15 Claims 1-8, 20-29, 33, and 37-44 stand rejected under the judicially created  
16 doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims  
17 1-8, 13-22, and 23-31 of U.S. Patent No. 6,172,972. These claims are canceled  
18 without prejudice, thereby obviating the rejection.

19 Claims 9-12, 17-19, 30-32, and 34-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§  
20 101 and 112, first paragraph. These claims are canceled without prejudice,  
21 thereby rendering moot the rejection.

22

23 **Conclusion**

24 Claims 13-16 and 45-46 are in condition for allowance. Applicant  
25 respectfully requests prompt allowance of the subject application. If any issue

1 remains unresolved that would prevent allowance of this case, the Examiner is  
2 requested to urgently contact the undersigned attorney to resolve the issue.

3  
4 Respectfully Submitted,

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